

Reduction of Waste Hazards Is Bureau's Goal

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The goal of the Bureau of Waste Management is to minimize the health and environmental impact associated with the generation, storage, transportation, treatment and disposal of all solid and hazardous waste in Kansas. To accomplish this, the bureau administers numerous permitting, inspection, education, training, and cleanup activities.

"We encourage proper waste management practices through regulatory programs, technical assistance and public education," said Bill Bider, bureau director. "Each day, our dedicated staff looks for better and safer ways to handle hazardous wastes, operate waste management facilities, and to increase the recovery of valuable materials from the waste stream."

Some noteworthy bureau activities in fiscal year 2005 included:

- Awarding 37 grants totaling more than \$1.35 million to support recycling, composting, and household hazardous waste collection in Kansas.
- Working with local communities to clean up 62 illegal dumpsites.
- Coordinating the completion 750 solid waste and hazardous waste inspections with the Bureau of Field Services.
- Removing thousands of unwanted and dangerous chemicals from high school labs
- Working with 40 stakeholders to revise the State Solid Waste Management Plan.
- Launching the "Get Caught Recycling" ad campaign featuring well-known Kansans.

The bureau also started a planning process to encourage the recycling of e-waste, such as old computers, monitors, etc. Disposing of e-waste at a landfill is still legal, but this is undesirable because e-waste can take up a lot of landfill space, and contains some hazardous heavy metals. Also, recycling conserves natural resources and is more environmentally sound.

The Bureau of Waste Management is housed within the KDHE Division of Environment. For more information, visit www.kdheks.gov/waste or call (785) 296-1600.